

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/943,458

Examiner

Young J. Kim

Applicant(s)

WELLER ET AL.

Art Unit

1637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment received on January 23, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-11 and 19-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

YOUNG J. KIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Young J. Kim
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1637

DETAILED ACTION***Examiner Reasons for Allowance***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Celebuski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,932,413) disclose a method of detecting a target polynucleotide sequence, wherein the artisans disclose a method of employing a target-specific, uncharged oligonucleotide probe to bind to a charged (having naturally occurring backbone) target nucleic acid. The advantage of the method is in that as the uncharged oligonucleotide probe does not contribute to the overall charge to the target nucleic acid, the duplex can be efficiently separated from single-stranded forms (i.e., single probe does not migrate, single target nucleic acid migrates fast, while the duplex migrates at a slower rate from size limitation).

However, Celebuski et al. employ a single, uncharged oligonucleotide probe that is specific for the target nucleic acid. Such is critical to the detection as the presence of the duplex must be specific to the target sequence it is being assayed for.

The present claims employ a nucleic acid (probe) which is fully charged, and hybridizes thereto a plurality of substantially uncharged oligonucleotide analogs (termed, "analyte molecule" - at least 90% uncharged), wherein the method recites that, "the probe forms a stable duplexes with plurality of or all of the different substantially uncharged analyte molecules" resulting in the formation of, "a plurality of different probe-analyte duplexes, which differ from each other with respect to the presence, length, or position of an unhybridized portion of the probe molecule."

There simply exists no motivation to employ the method of Celebuski et al. to bind a plurality of uncharged oligonucleotides to a single, fully charged nucleic acid.

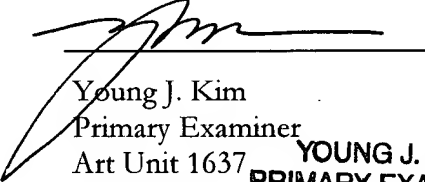
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Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Young J. Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-0785. The Examiner is on flex-time schedule and can best be reached from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m (M-W and F). The Examiner can also be reached via e-mail to Young.Kim@uspto.gov. However, the office cannot guarantee security through the e-mail system nor should official papers be transmitted through this route.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Dr. Gary Benzion, can be reached at (571) 272-0782.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1637 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 CFR 1.6(d)). NOTE: If applicant does submit a paper by FAX, the original copy should be retained by applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED, so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office. All official documents must be sent to the Official Tech Center Fax number: (571) 273-8300. For Unofficial documents, faxes can be sent directly to the Examiner at (571) 273-0785. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.


Young J. Kim
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1637
4/10/2007
**YOUNG J. KIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

YJK